

I SPY ICON



# I SPY IN MY LITTLE "I" CON

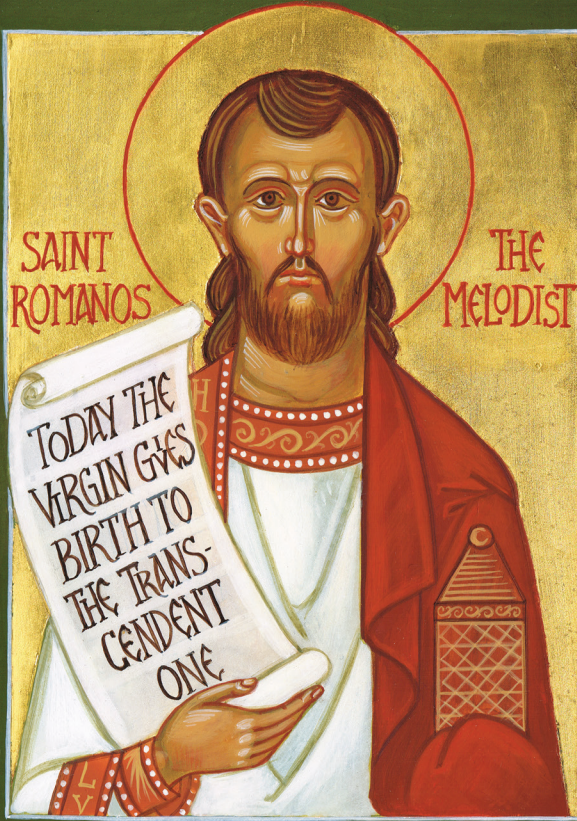
ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST

**St Romanos the Melodist is the patron saint of church singers and is most famous for his vision of the Theotokos and the subsequent kontakia that he wrote.**

Do you recognize the kontakion written on his scroll?

**Can you sing it?**

Often St. Romanos is depicted dressed as a deacon but he was not a deacon, he was a reader and a cantor. In ancient times readers had their own outfits, which were short red tunics.



ST. ROMANOS THE MELODIST // FR. VLADIMIR LYSAK

Why do you think his hand is covered? Priests and deacons often cover their hands when holding holy things. Can you think of a time when you saw someone cover their hands when holding something holy?

Which feast day is this kontakion written for?

Do you see the small box that he is holding? It is called a Zion and was often in the shape of a church and carried by the deacon. Sometimes it would be used to carry the Eucharist and other times it was used to carry incense or even the church collection. This practice has fallen away and if you see one used now, it is for ceremonial purposes and is most likely empty.